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AB 599 (Hall) - Crime Lab Accreditation FACT SHEET

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ISSUE

The Department of Public Health (DPH) currently regulates public and private laboratories that conduct forensic alcohol analysis tests by or for law enforcement agencies. Many of these laboratories have also sought and achieved accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) which has a much higher standard than those by the DPH for the testing procedures of blood alcohol in criminal cases.

DPH's current oversight of an ASCLD/LAB accredited laboratory is not only duplicative in nature, wasting thousands of dollars a year, but does nothing to ensure that the highest quality of forensic blood alcohol testing is achieved in California.

SOLUTION

AB 599 would exempt a forensic alcohol analysis laboratory that is accredited by the ASCLD/LAB from oversight by DPH or by another accrediting body approved by DPH's Forensic Alcohol Review Committee.

By exempting ASCLD/LAB accredited laboratories from oversight by the DPH, the department would be able to direct their limited resources to those laboratories that have not achieved the nationally recognized ASCLD/LAB accreditation.

In addition, the State of California would save thousands of dollars a year and achieve greater quality of forensic blood alcohol testing in California.

SUPPORT

California Association of Crime Lab Directors (Sponsor)

(As introduced February 25, 2009)